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Docket No. F-6817

Ser. No. 09/762,530

REMARKS

Claims 11, 16-19 and 22-37 remain pending in this application and are rejected. Claims 11, 27 and 32 are objected to. Claims 1-10 and 20-21 were previously cancelled. Claim 36 is cancelled herein. Claim 18 is amended to clarify the invention by addressing an objection that is unrelated to substantive patentability issues. Claim 25 is amended to address an objection. Claims 11, 16, 17, 26, 27 and 32-35 are amended to clarify claim language. Applicants respectfully aver that the amendments to the application raise no new issues and, thus, should be entered.

Claims 11, 27 and 32 are objected to for reciting structural limitations incommensurate with the specification. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the recitation in the claims of the "coated ... surface being planar" does not correspond with the specification's disclosure of a coating surface that is "substantially planar".

Applicants submit herewith a substitute specification and abstract wherein amendments are effected to include in the specification a discussion of the coated surface being planar. The amendments are supported, at a minimum, by the

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preliminary amendment to the claims filed with the application. Thus, no new matter is added. Entry of the substitute specification and abstract is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 is objected to for reciting a comparison of the “pressure-sensitive adhesive” to the “pressure-sensitive adhesive coating”.

Claim 18 is amended herein to clarify that the pressure-sensitive *adhesives* of the first and second pressure-sensitive adhesive coatings are being compared, as presumed in the Office Action. Office Action page 2, last paragraph.

Claim 25 is objected to for depending on cancelled claim 21.

Claim 25 is amended herein to clarify that claim 25 depends from claim 11.

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter allegedly not described in the specification. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the structural limitation “entire top surface” appears to be new matter.

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MPEP §2163 that “ [t]o satisfy the written description requirement, a patent specification must describe the claimed invention in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention.” The MPEP elaborates that “[a]n applicant shows possession of the claimed invention by describing the claimed invention with all of its limitations using such descriptive means as words ... ” *Id.*

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that the specification sufficiently describes the claimed invention limitation of “entire top surface”. The specification states that the invention may be comprised of a “backing layer ... which is *coated* on a top surface facing the floor covering and on a bottom surface facing the floor.” Specification page 2 lines 22-26. The word coated means “to cover with a coat” or “to cover or spread with a finishing, protecting, or enclosing layer” Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary> (last visited July 16, 2008). Furthermore, the term “cover” has the meaning “to hide from sight ... conceal... envelop ...” *Id.* As an illustration, if one says they will “cover the cost of the meal” they mean that they will pay for the *entire* cost of the meal. Moreover, the Office Action rejection of claims 33-35 specifically interprets the language “first and second adhesive coatings have an equivalent surface area”

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to refer to "the (whole) entire top and bottom surfaces." Claims 33-35, Office
Action page 5, 3rd paragraph. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with this

interpretation of the language, as discussed below, it also provides an indication

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